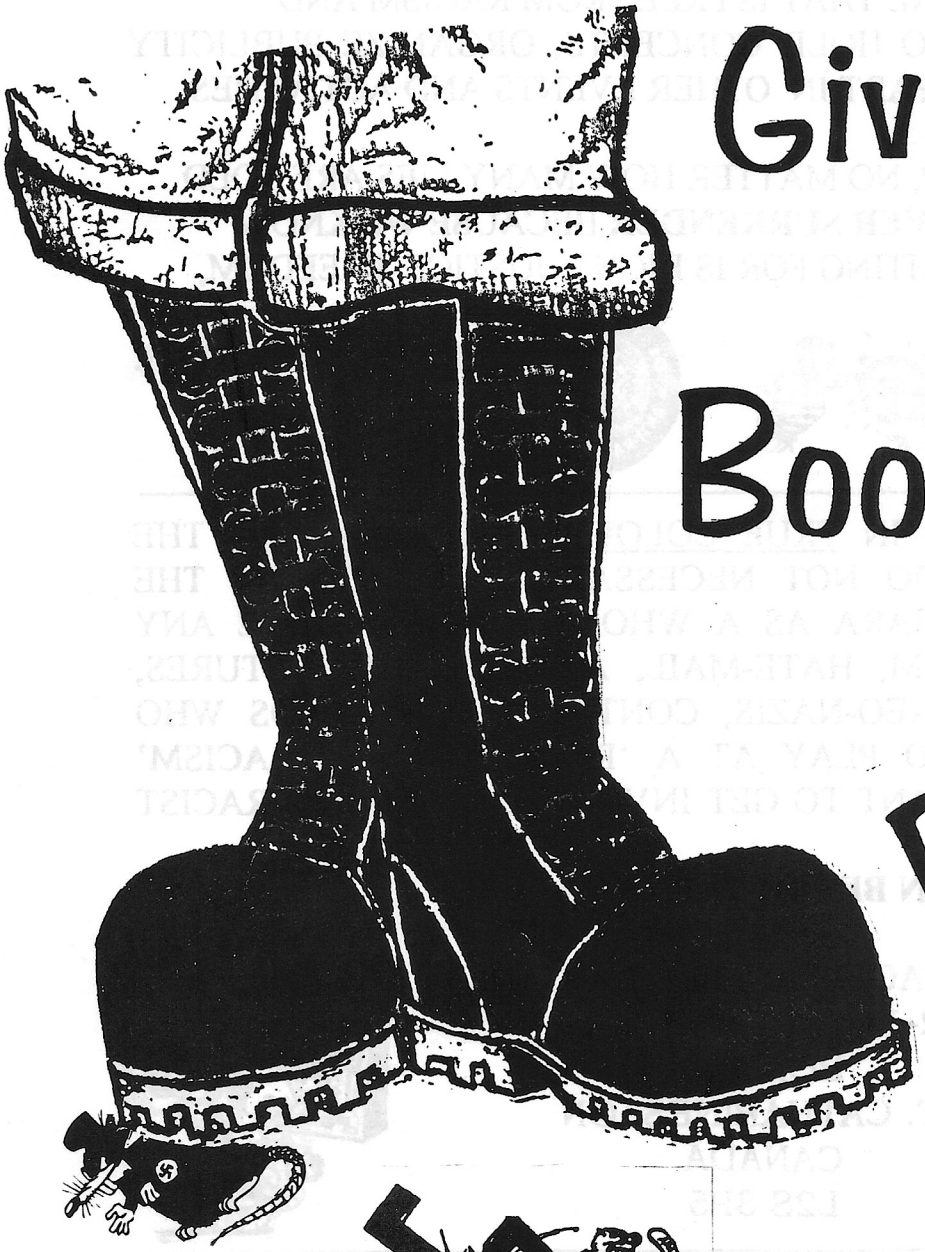
TRUE COLOURS

THE VOICE OF ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA



Give The Boot To Bigotry!

Issue # 4 Spring ♦ 1997

HELLO FOLKS! WELCOME TO THE NEW AND IMPROVED **TRUE COLOURS**. TRUE COLOURS IS PRODUCED BY **ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA**, AND IS DEDICATED TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WHO STAND UP AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM, WHETHER YOU'RE A PUNK, RAPPER, SKINHEAD, FREAK, HIPPY, NORMAL, OR WHATEVER.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA IS A **YOUTH-ORIENTED ANTI-RACIST GROUP** FORMED IN THE WINTER OF 1995. WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION AND OUR GOAL IS TO PROMOTE A YOUTH SCENE THAT IS FREE FROM RACISM AND PREJUDICE. WE PLAN TO HOLD CONCERTS, ORGANIZE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, AND TAKE PART IN OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

WE WILL NOT GIVE UP, NO MATTER HOW MANY LIES ARE TOLD ABOUT US. **WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER** BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR IS RIGHT: JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND RESPECT.

KEEP THE FAITH.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN TRUE COLOURS ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS, AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OPINIONS OF ARA NIAGARA AS A WHOLE. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, CRITICISM, HATE-MAIL, ARTICLES OR PICTURES, INFORMATION ABOUT NEO-NAZIS, CONTACTS FOR BANDS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO PLAY AT A 'ROCK AGAINST RACISM' CONCERT, OR IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA,

WE CAN BE CONTACTED AT:

ANTI-RACIST ACTION NIAGARA

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LOVE MUSIC HATE RACISM

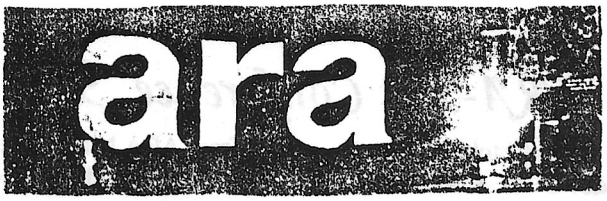
Hate-Rock Booted Out of Niagara Falls

In the last issue of True Colours we revealed that a Niagara Falls record store was selling racist music and magazines. We checked it out further and we found white power CD's, white power magazines, and neo-Nazi shirts openly on display. There was merchandise with racist symbols on them, and CD's with titles such as "White Straight and Proud." An ARA Niagara member bought a copy of Resistance Magazine, which is published by a neo-Nazi record label from Detroit. The magazine had articles that called black people "niggers" and "an intolerable race of idiots and savages." The CD's had lyrics that were just as appalling.

ARA Niagara decided on the direct approach; we did not go to the police or the government. Some anti-racists asked the store's staff why they were selling the stuff. In addition, ARA Niagara sent a letter to the owner of the store and asked him to stop selling the racist materials. ARA also sent the store-owner a pamphlet called "Ripping Apart Racist Rock," which discusses the neo-Nazi music industry and shows what can be done to fight against it. There were no threats or personal attacks in the letter. ARA Niagara received no response to the letter even though our mailing address was clearly visible on bottom of the page.

On November 22, 1996, the St. Catharines Standard wrote an article about the record store. The article exposed the fact that the store was selling hateful materials that according to Revenue Canada are illegal to bring into the country. The next day, there was an article in the Standard in which the store-owner apologized and stated that he would no longer sell the racist products. That was good enough for us.

Unfortunately, on December 11, a local free entertainment weekly published a slanderous editorial in which the owner of the record store was portrayed as an innocent victim. The store-owner called ARA Niagara "ignorant kids," and the article said that ARA accused the store-owner of being a Nazi and tried to ruin his reputation. In the article, the store-owner said that ARA Niagara made threats and organized a boycott. The store-owner also claimed that he did not know that the materials were racist, and that he was targeted because ARA members worked at another record store. These should be seen for what they are: pathetic pleas for sympathy.



THIS IS THE ARTICLE WE HAD IN OUR LAST ISSUE.

The Sloth/Resistance Records Connection

Sloth Records, a music store in Niagara Falls, carries CD's by white power bands and sells copies of **Resistance** magazine.

Resistance Records is a neo-Nazi record label based in Detroit. It is run by Canada's own George Burdi, who was a leader in the racist Church of the Creator. Several years ago he was arrested for beating the crap out of a female anti-racist in Ottawa.

It is rumoured that Sloth will become an official distributor of Resistance Records products sometime this fall. The owner of Sloth Records is not believed to be a racist himself. It is likely he justifies this move in the name of free speech and in the name of the almighty dollar.

If you have a problem with hate propaganda being sold openly in your community let your concerns be known.

(1996)

ARA-Net Conference '96

On October 18, 1996, a crew from ARA Niagara headed down to Columbus, Ohio for a weekend of videos, workshops, networking, and partying.

Some of the topics covered in workshops were: the religious right, the militia movement, psychology of hate groups, police brutality, Nazi rock, homophobia, youth liberation, the labour movement, non-racist skinheads, the internet, and other topics that relate to the anti-racist movement. In addition, there was a street demonstration on Saturday to protest against police violence in Columbus.

There were also two nights of concerts - two concerts each night. These ARA gigs featured ska, jazz, rockabilly, and hardcore punk. Some of the bands that played were Pressure Drop, Triggahappy, Too Hectic, Wolfgang Parker, Race Traitor, and Ice Nine.

There were lots of cool people at the conference, ranging from hip-hoppers, to crust-punks, to skinheads. ARA Niagara made connections with anti-racist groups from all over North America, and brought home some cool 'zines. ARA members came back to Niagara with a renewed sense of why they are involved with the anti-Nazi struggle and ideas for future actions. Cheers go out to the organizers of the conference.

Ska, Ska, Ska, and Oi!

On Friday, January 10th, 1997 there was a 'ROCK AGAINST RACISM' concert in Toronto at the El Mocombo. There were three ska bands and an Oi band. The ska bands included the **Smokers** from Sudbury, **Too Hectic** from Syracuse, New York, and Toronto's own **Arsenals.** The voice of **Oi** was provided by Windsor's **Lager Lads.** About 450 people (including lots of skins, punks and rudies) came out to support the anti-racist cause and to have a good time. It was good to see some old faces and meet some new ones. The mood of the night was **UNITY**.

The show was kicked off with an introduction by **J.C.**, who is the host of "MODS AND ROCKERS" - a punk/ska/garage/power-pop radio programme on CIUT, 89.5 FM (Mondays 10:00-midnight). I finally got to see what he looks like.

The bands played kick-ass sets and the the crowd kept skanking into the wee hours of the night. I picked up Lager Lads' "Rose City Boot Boys" 7 inch and I am impressed. If you are a fan of Oi or ska you should definitely check out these bands.

ON THE STREETS: THE LOCAL NAZI SCENE

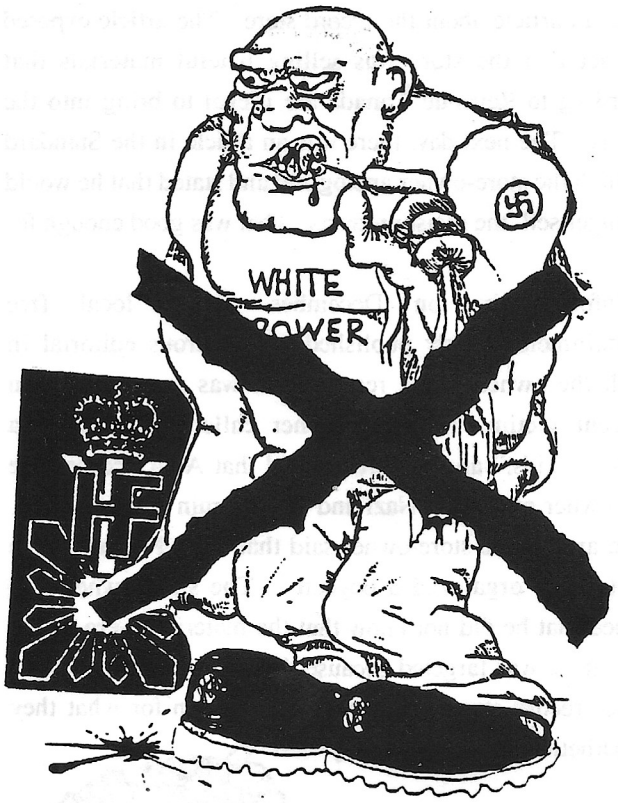
Here are a few updates:

On the final weekend of the 1996 Grape & Wine Festival in October, Jake "Wanker" Shwenck, Vince Ritchie, and an unidentified white male went to a downtown apartment building looking for a known anti-racist. Luckily they were so stoned and drunk they were banging on the wrong doors. When the maintenance man confronted them, Jake pulled a knife and showed off his Heritage Front shirt. The fool ended up getting arrested and locked up for a few days. It turns out that it was probably some kind of Heritage Front initiation.

Neo-Nazis have been causing trouble at some St. Catharines night clubs. They have been hanging out a lot at a club on St. Paul St. and they often appear at another downtown St. Catharines night-club. At almost every punk show I go to in this city I see Nazis trying to pick a fight, (sometimes with yours truly). Most of the boneheads are associated with Heritage Front Niagara in one way or another. A few of the Nazis that have been involved in incidents are Andy Appollonio, Colin "Potatohead" Barrow, Dave Beamer, Rick Green.

Heritage Front Niagara has a new phone hotline. They have been advertising it on the internet. The new number is (905) 988-****. The new hateline is pretty much like the old one; boring messages about immigration and white rights. You can also leave your own messages. Hopefully the new hateline won't last as long as the last one.

Keep a look-out for more action.



Did Hitler drive a Taxi?

If you were walking in downtown St. Catharines during the second week of December, 1996, you might have seen ridiculous flyers posted on telephone poles and kiosks that called Anti-Racist Action a "dangerous terrorist organization". The flyers also claimed that ARA Niagara is being assisted by the Community Dialogue on Racism. I don't know what they mean by "assisted," but we sure don't get any money from CDR, and we don't depend on CDR or any other groups for anything.

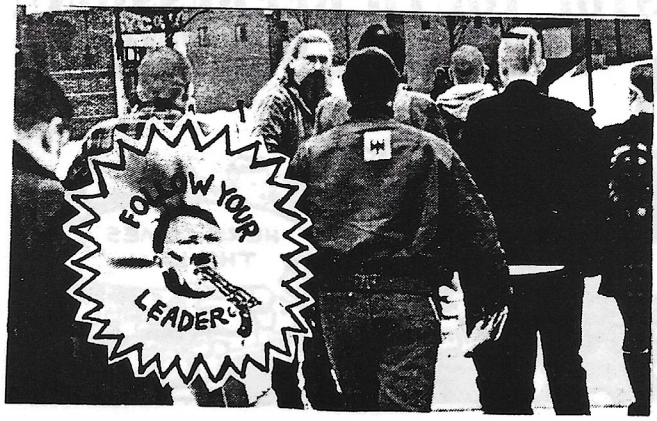
At the bottom of the flyers they said that they were sponsored by a group calling itself "Autonomous Citizens of Canada (Niagara Branch) with no government funding." Well good for them. ARA Niagara doesn't receive any government funding either.

It turns out that the person who put up these flyers was likely none other than Keith Bowden, the brother of Mike Bowden, who is one of the leaders of what's left of Heritage Front Niagara. The Heritage Front is a neo-fascist organization with a history of beating up anti-racists, homosexuals, and people of different races. Who are the real "terrorists?"

On December 11, 1996, a member of ARA Niagara was walking in downtown St. Catharines, and he was approached by a cream-coloured station-wagon taxicab (with fake wood panelling). Inside was a middle-aged white male who had shoulder-length blonde hair (thinning at the top) and wore large glasses . He asked the ARA member's name and handed him a copy of the flyer. He told the ARA activist,"I've got a lot more of these, so you keep tearing them down and I'll keep putting them up!"

Sometime the next day, the ARA member was walking by the public library with his mother and the same cab driver pulled over. The man threatened the ARA member and said that he would have the young anti-racist followed. When the ARA member's mother told the cabbie to leave her son alone, he swore at her and gave her the finger.

When the activist's mother phoned the cab company to complain, the company was reluctant to take any action. Then the activist's mother stated that she could take legal action, and she pointed out that there were witnesses to the incident. According to the cab company, they decided to suspend the taxi driver for a week without pay. BAD CABBIE - NO TIP!



Nazi Rock and Free Speech

In discussing the topic of hate propaganda, some people try to cloud the issue by talking about choice and the right to free expression. This is somewhat confusing - Nazis talking about freedom? The Nazis of Germany sure didn't support free speech, with their strict censorship policies and ritual bookburnings. The Jews, homosexuals, anti-fascists, and other so-called 'undesirables' who were slaughtered by the millions did not have the right to free choice, and neither do the victims of today's neo-Nazis.

While everyone, including racists, have the right to free speech, this does not mean stores are obliged to distribute their materials. It also does not mean that we should sit back and watch the fascists spew their garbage. By not doing anything, we become accomplices, because inaction makes it easier for bigots to spread their racist messages.

Each time someone buys neo-Nazi merchandise, they are helping to finance the white racialist movement. The profits from the sale of white power CD's, magazines, and clothing are used to produce more propaganda, organize racist events, pay neo-Nazis' legal bills, and buy weapons for the 'racial holy war.'

We should not let the fascists organize in our cities and we should not allow the issue to be blurred with misguided references to free speech. Stopping the spread of the Nazi rock scene is not an issue of free speech and censorship; it is an issue of self-defence. It is self-defence because Nazi rock is a crucial component in building the far-right movement and promoting the violence that accompanies it. We must confront all racist organizing, wherever and wherever it appears.

What is Fascism?

Once in a while someone looks at the ARA patch that says "STOMP OUT FASCISM" and asks what *fascism* means. Pronounced 'fash-is-um,' it is defined as a governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all sectors of society, and emphasizing an aggressive form of nationalism, and often racism. A fascist can be defined as a person who believes in fascism, a member of a fascist movement or party, a person who is dictatorial, or a person who has extreme right-wing political views.

The most well-known example of a fascistic state was Germany between 1933 and 1945, when Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist (Nazi) Party were in power. Because of the policies of the Nazis, more than six million Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, handicapped people, and political activists were systematically murdered.

Today many white supremicist groups shy away from the term 'fascist' in order to make their racist message more acceptable to the mainstream. They hide behind terms such as 'white separatist' and slogans like "Equal rights for whites." Sometimes they slip up though.

Some members of Heritage Front Niagara have been seen in public making Nazi 'sigue heil' salutes and wearing German Nazi symbols . At a conference in Welland in November of 1995, Heritage Front members stood up when a speaker told all the fascists in the room to stand up.

Because we believe in freedom and democracy, ARA Niagara makes it our duty to expose and oppose fascists wherever they appear. We don't want to live under a dictatorship... do you?

FIGHT THE REAL ENEMY

Bertrand Russell (1872-1990) once said "Few people can be happy unless they hate some other person, nation, or creed."

Why do people hate? Documentaries and articles about neo-nazi organizations often suggest that people join hate groups because they lack economic opportunities or feel marginalized in society. There is some truth to that.

Kids today have a right to be angry, with all the problems they face: high unemployment, high cost of post-secondary education, the pressures of school, work, and family life, pollution, violence, and politicians who have no vision other than cutting social programs.

Many young people are pessimistic about the future and don't see where they fit in society. In addition, they have to listen to the older generation who just tells us anyone can get a good job if they try. Excuse me, this is not the 1950's anymore. No more leaving school after grade eight and going down to the factory to get a good-paying job. The government and the newspapers say the economy is recovering, but where are the jobs? Corporations are making huge profits and cutting jobs at the same time.

Why would this kind of situation lead people to join racist organizations though? - because it is easy. It is a lot easier to direct your anger at a black guy walking down the street than at a faceless board of corporate executives. Neo-Nazis are lazy; they'd rather recycle the prejudices of past generations than examine the roots of society's problems.

We must wake up and realize who the real traitors are: rich corporations, corrupt politicians, cops who harass youth, and other authority figures who put us down.

Youths of today, get together... FIGHT THE REAL ENEMY!

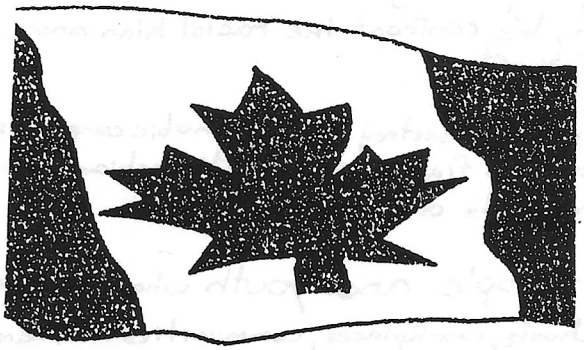
Tired of big business dictating to government what must be done?

Tired of seeing the rich get richer?

STOP YOUTH REPRESSION!!
SEEK REAL SOLUTIONS!!

Tune in to **Radio Antifa**

on Word of Mouth: every other Monday at 7:30 pm on CKLN 88.1 FM. NEWS, VIEWS, and TUNES from the anti-fascist scene.

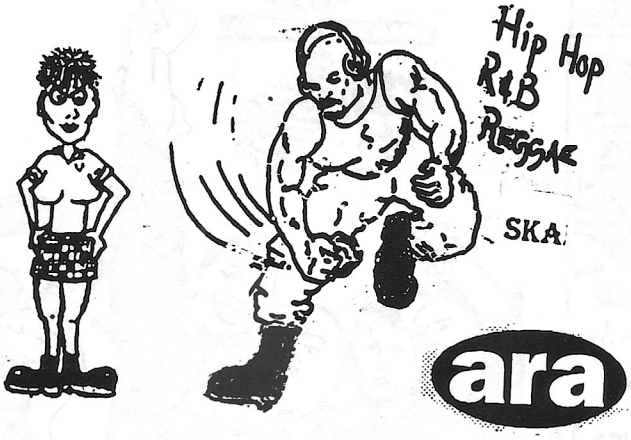


Wake Up Canada

The Canadian federal government is walking away from the fight against HIV/AIDS. Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien will not commit his government to a renewal of Canada's National AIDS strategy.

The Strategy provides desperately-needed funding for AIDS prevention, research, care, and support. Canadian research has already ground to a halt because long-term funding is not available. Community-based HIV/AIDS organizations that provide care, prevention, and education programs will be at risk.

If you believe Canada should renew the National AIDS Strategy, please write to Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Minister of Health David Dingwall at Parliament Hill, Ottawa. Postage is free of charge. (**Wake Up Canada** is a network of Canadian AIDS activists committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS)

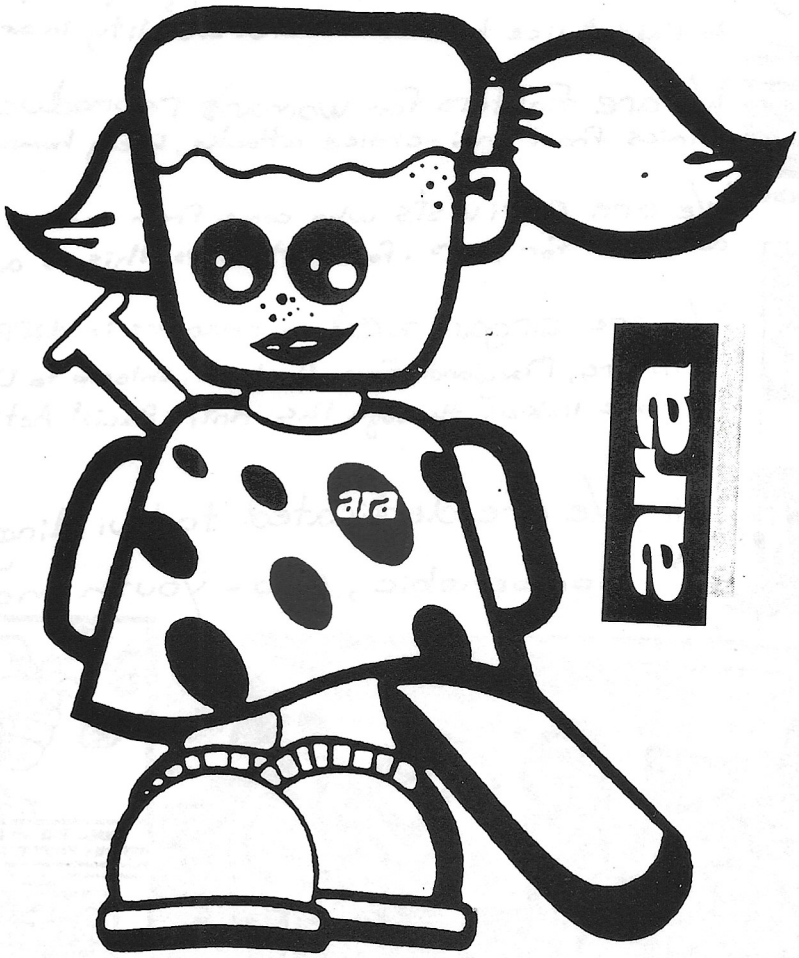


Check out ARA on the'Net!

Some of the chapters of Anti-Racist Action have web pages on the Internet.
Toronto ARA's is at **http://www.**

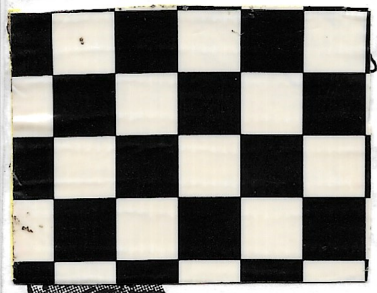
There are many chapters of **Anti-Racist Action** in Canada and the United States. If you would like a list of their mailing addresses write to us.

F**K Sexism!



"All jobs should be open to everybody unless they actually require a penis or a vagina."
- Florence Kennedy

w this kind of mix gathered
hind a common cause?



ARA.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION

Who We Are

We are Black, brown, and white people organized and dedicated to fighting racism in every form through direct action. We confront the racist Klan and Neo-Nazis as well as the structural racism in our society.

We are gay, straight and lesbians who seek to destroy the homophobic components of our society. We actively promote sexual freedom and fight against anti-lesbian and gay bigotry, whether it comes from neo-Nazi boneheads or government laws.

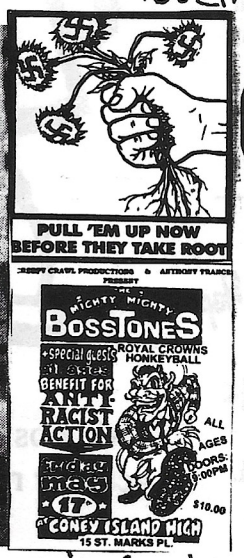
We are students, working people, poor people and youth who collaborate to fight Police harassment and brutality in our schools, workplaces, communities and hangouts

We are fighters for woman's reproductive rights and work together to defend clinics from anti-choice attacks. Every human being should have access to health care.

We are activists who come from various backgrounds. Some of us have been activists for years. For most of us, this is a new venture.

We are organized in chapters in different cities from Grover Beach, Califorinate Baltimore, Maryland, From Durham, Ontario to Deer Park, Texas. Our chapters are autonomous but are linked through the Anti-Racist Action Network.

We are dedicated to building an anti-racist, anti-Homophobic, pro-youth movement!



) Fight against racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-Semitism and all forms of oppression.
) Same time-same place direct action against racist mobilizations. We don't believe in ignoring them.
) little reliance on the police. We must rely on ourselves to to protect ourselves and to stop the facists.
) Non-sectarian defence of anti-racist activists.